

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 24, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 17, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 221

Introduced by Assembly Member Nakano

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Bates, Bogh, Briggs, Calderon, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Havice, Hertzberg, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Migden, Mountjoy, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pavley, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Salinas, Shelley, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Vargas, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wiggins, Wright, Wyland, Wyman, and Zettel)

June 12, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 221—Relative to Japanese-American World War II veterans of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 221, as amended, Nakano. Japanese-American World War II veterans.

This measure would recognize and thank the Nisei World War II veterans for their extraordinary and heroic service to America during

World War II, and declare that their sacrifice and valor should forever be a reminder of the true spirit of democracy in America.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Japanese-American veterans, including the
2 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
3 Military Intelligence Service, and other men and women who
4 faithfully and resolutely served America during World War II,
5 have traveled from all regions of California to take part in a special
6 dedication in their honor at the State Capitol on June 24, 2002; and

7 WHEREAS, That fateful day, December 7, 1941, forever
8 changed the lives of these Americans of Japanese ancestry,
9 relocating many from their homes in California to internment
10 camps as a result of the Presidential Executive Order 9066; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite their living in horrendous conditions
12 behind barbed wire and being classified 4C “enemy alien,” these
13 brave young Nisei answered the call and volunteered to defend
14 their country, the United States of America; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Army allowed them to serve in
16 segregated military units, including the 100th Infantry Battalion,
17 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence
18 Service, that afforded them the opportunity to prove their loyalty
19 and citizenship through military service; and

20 WHEREAS, The 100th Infantry Battalion, comprised of mainly
21 Nisei from Hawaii, was later attached to the 442nd Regimental
22 Combat Team as its 1st Battalion, and valiantly fought in six major
23 campaigns in the European Theater, including Monte Cassino,
24 Anzio, Po Valley, the Liberation of Bruyeres, and the Rescue of the
25 Lost Battalion, and is recognized as the “Purple Heart Battalion”;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The 442nd Regimental Combat Team composed
28 of volunteers and draftees from Hawaii and the mainland
29 internment camps joined the 100th Battalion in the European
30 Theater in 1944, participating in major battles at Belvedere, Hill
31 140, Bruyeres, Biffontaine, Po Valley-Gothic Line, and the
32 invasion of southern France; and

33 WHEREAS, One of the most poignant episodes of World War
34 II occurred on October 30 1944, in France, as the 100/442 was
35 called up to rescue the decimated Texans of the 36th Division who
36 were surrounded by the enemy; fearlessly answering the order the



1 100/442 saved 211 lives, while taking more that 800 casualties;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, who was
4 originally attached to the 442nd and later assigned to the 62nd
5 Infantry Division, marched through Germany and in one of the
6 most ironic twists of World War II, liberated the Dachau
7 concentration camp, while their families were undeservedly
8 residing behind barbed wire internment camps; and

9 WHEREAS, America's secret weapon in the Pacific Theater,
10 the Nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service, were
11 dispatched to every major battle and campaign in the Pacific as
12 linguists who interpreted enemy documents and radio
13 transmissions as well as prepared propaganda, interrogated
14 prisoners of war and assisted with the surrender and United States
15 occupation after the war's end, and whose contributions saved
16 millions of American lives and shortened the war in the Pacific by
17 two years; and

18 WHEREAS, These valiant efforts have been recognized by the
19 U.S. government with numerous military awards, including
20 18,143 individual decorations that include 21 Medals of Honor, 52
21 Distinguished Service Crosses, 559 Silver Stars, with 28 Oak Leaf
22 Clusters in lieu of second Silver Stars awards, 8 Presidential Unit
23 Citations, 4000 Bronze Stars, with 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters
24 representing second Bronze Stars, and 9,486 casualties receiving
25 Purple Hearts, the State of California has never formally honored
26 the more than 30,000 Japanese-American men and women who
27 served in the United States Army during World War II; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the Nisei
31 World War II veterans for their extraordinary and heroic service to
32 America during World War II and declare that their sacrifice and
33 valor should forever be a reminder of the true spirit of democracy
34 in America; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature thanks the 100th/442, who are
36 the most highly decorated military unit in the history of the United
37 States, and who are truly our American heroes, for their sacrifice,
38 courage, and service to our great nation; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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